Pending Irrigation Projects of Punjab

2613. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irrigation projects of Punjab which are still pending with Central Government for clearance and since when;

(b) whether Government propose to provide more financial assistance to Punjab for completion of these projects; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) One Major Irrigation Project namely "Remodelling of channels of Upper Bari Doab Canal System' received in January 1994 and one medium irrigation Project namely "Modernisation and Extension of Badshahi Canal on left side of River Ravi' received in May, 1994 are under Techno-Economic Appraisal in Central Water Commission.

(b) and (c) Water being a state subject, Irrigation Projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments themselves.

Damage to Irrigation Sources due to Floods

2614. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irrigation sources which have been either damaged or breached due to recent floods in Northern States including Punjab, and the total amount required for the repairs and construction of these irrigation sources;

(b) whether the Central Government have received reports regarding loss and damage caused to these sources and the financial assistance sought by each of these State and the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the financial requirement of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to construct the damaged sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As informed by the State Governments 580 Tubewells and 3 Canal Systems in Haryana, 4 Canal Systems in Punjab and 453 Irrigation Schemes in Himachal Pradesh have been damaged due to floods.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture has received reports from Northern States regarding damages to infrastructure including Irrigation sources due to heavy rains and floods. The States have not been sought any additional Central Assistance so far.

(c) Does not arise.

Cauvery Water Dispute

2615. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTI MALA BALI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to Cauvery Water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring both the States to the negotiating table to settle the dispute once for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted on June, 2, 1990. After hearing Civil Miscellaneous Petition of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the Tribunal gave an order on June 25, 1991 giving interim relief to State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Accepting the opinion given by the Supreme Court, Government of India in accordance with Section 6 of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, published the decision of the Tribunal in the official Gazette on 10.12.1991 making it final and binding on the party states. The State Governments are required to give effect to the decision.

All the four basin states have presented their cases before the Tribunal. The Tribunal has taken up cross examination of witnesses.